

1 John 3v11-12 – Speaking of Hippies – 07-18-1971

TRINITY CHARGE---THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP July 18, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 69
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy
steadfast love; according to thy abundant
mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us
thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us
from our sin. For we know our transgressions,
and our sin is ever before us. Against thee
only have we sinned, and done that which is
evil in thy sight. So that thou art justified
in thy sentence, and blameless in thy judg-
ment. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and
put a new and right spirit within us. Cast
us not away from thy presence, and take not
thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the
joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy
willing Spirit. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture--I John 3:1-14
*The Gloria Patri
Anthem (Christ)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 477
The Sermon----"Speaking of Hippies"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 87

*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Although summer is upon us and we are involved
in vacations and summer activities, the bills
and debts of the church still go on. So in-
stead of throwing those envelopes away for the
Sundays we do not attend, please remember the
church and bring them with you or send them in.

During the month of August while the Pastor is
on vacation, we will have as our guest Pastors,
the Rev. Luther Y. Seibert, Jr. on August 1st
and the Rev. Luke Buffonmyer on the 8th, 15th,
and 22nd. The bulletins will be prepared
ahead of time and if there are special an-
nouncements it will be necessary to give
them to the visiting Pastor prior to the
morning service.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers for this morning have been placed
in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Charles K.
Hampton by their daughter Mrs. Inez Harris.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Crested Butte

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

*HYMN

RESPONSIVE READING

*GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

The Congregation

Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer
O Lord; Incline thine ear to us, and
grant us thy peace. Amen.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE

*HYMN

SERMON

*HYMN

BENEDICTION

*The Congregation is requested to stand

The historic Union Congregational Church
welcomes you to worship in this most
beautiful place. May you find a dynamic
stimulus to an ever deepening relationship
with God and with others, as well as the
"peace that passes all understanding."

Speaking of Hippies

I JOHN

Text: I John 3; 11 & 12.

WE LIVE IN WORLD OF MANY CHANGES IN PRESS, LIFE ETC. HIPPIES WE SAY.
The Young man had chosen drift in world of drifters, rootless, restless, wanderers.

Way lived price paid for being different from home people. Least he told self this.
Why had he gone? why among strangers?

Family and friend bunch of squares. Could not believe hypocrisy, self righteous attitudes and piety. Trying to make fit a mold.

Hated and had animosity to them in spite of talking peace and serenity, no love shown by him.

Name Cain meant spear and conveyed something of nature of him.

At times remembered killing Abel but tried to push thoughts into far recesses of his brain. All gone and forgotten, Or was It?

Abel had been clod, nuisance. Part of haircuts conventional clothing. Listening to the elders and doing what expected *← PART OF STRAIGHT WORLD*

All this gave Cain pain.

All Abel thought of was sheep. Stupid sheep. He even smelled like sheep.

He had to look after him. Adam said look after Brother Abel.

Good grief he hated that.

HE Thought of times he had shown brother up as stupid shepherd boy.

He was sharp and direct in dealings much like his name spear.

Boy those wex days. Made it big as said he would.

Biggest spread around. Didn't work, others did that. Checked with foremen.

Used brains and with collateral of producing farms bought more land.

Wanted buy brothers but stupid sheep for pasture. *CAIN FARMS, CANN ENTER,*

Remembered brother showed him up in front of Lord.

Gave prize ewe instead of weakest sheep and none wiser.

Anyone could see Cain gave more with his surplus farm goods.

But Lord accepted Abels and not his.

Burned him up and he confronted Lord.

Lord said, ~~"If you do not well, will you not be accepted?"~~

All his efforts counted for nothing. No one knew how he wheeled and dealt to get to where he was.

Obvious that Lord preferred Abel and he did not realize that he could have Lord's favor too if he became like brother.

Brooded over brother standing in his way to being accepted.

Did not remember further words of Lord, "If you do not well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Furious with Abel and remembered all of problems caused him. Had it with him. *RIGHT FROM BIT*

So he plotted and formed plan whereby get him alone in fields.

Met him on pretext of business. When sure alone stabbed Abel and buried in shallow grave.

At last free of him.

What really irked was God looking for Abel.

Remembered how he asked, "Where is Abel?"

remembered how he said, "I don't know" and then how he had asked, "Am I my brothers keeper?"

To which God had roared at him, "What have you done?"

Then he took this God bit seriously

He was still hurt because after all he had done God still cared about Abel more

God told him he would be wanderer.

Scared him because he might get murdered.

God told would kill anyone killing him. Then marked him on forehead and sent off.

Dwelt in land of Nod, Hebrew for wandering.

First hippy begins ceaseless wanderings on earth.

We as wanderers in own right, bear marks of Cain and Christ.

Share same guilt as Cain, are marked by nail prints of Christ.

May sink into ground unknown, but we are never forgotten.

God loves us and cares for us.

Even at our worst God loves and will forgive.

Have much more going for us than Cain did.

He only had a little history behind as background of life.

We have hundreds of years of sin in world and mans envy, greed, jealousy to show how to live.

But as Cain ^{we} follow stupidly along, committing same offenses generation after generation.

Why God sacrificed Son on Cross for man, because of utter futility of trying to redeem him.

In evil desires and following of evil resemble sheep.

Confession, "All we like sheep have gone astray."

Message still same as John says, "As you heard it from the beginning, we are to love one another; not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and cut his brothers throat; cut his own brothers throat simply for this reason, that his own life was evil and his brother lived a good life."

Reach out to brothers in love instead of hatred

Search own hearts and see perhaps envious of neighbors and feel they blessed and we not. Someone gotten reward we should have.

Little of Abel in most of us and lot of Cain

99% Cain and 1% Abel must be switched around.

Old saying of "Raising Cain, change to Raising Abel.

God will look after and care as he did Abel, but must strive do right and follow footsteps of Son.

Loud and clear bible story, whether murdered or murderers, God cares and seeks us out. Comes looking for us.

Will we give as Abel or as Cain? Choice ours. Whether best or living by wits and giving what we can get by with.

Speaking of Hippies, what are we?

Speaking of Hippies

Text: I John 3; ~~12~~ 11 & 12, "And this is the message as you heard it from the beginning: that we are to love one another; not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and cut his brothers throat; cut his brothers throat simply for this reason, that his own life was evil and his brother lived a good life."

The young man had chosen to drift into the world of the ~~iff~~ drifters and the rootless, restless wanderers. The way he lived was the price he paid for being so very different from those he left at home when he departed the scene. At least this is what he told himself.

Why had he gone? What caused him to be among these strangers? He kept assuring himself that his family and friends were all a bunch of squares. He simply could not tolerate their hypocrisy, their self righteous attitudes toward him, and their desire to mold him into their mold. He was filled with hatred and animosity toward them and in spite of his talk of peace and serenity he displayed little of peace and love in his own life. His very name Cain meant "Spear" and it sort of conveyed something of his very nature.

At times he tried to remember that he had once used a weapon on his brother Abel, but he tried to push these thoughts into the far reaches of his mind. All of that was in the past and forgotten. Or was it?

Abel had been a nuisance and a real clod. He was a part of the straight world, of regular haircuts and conventional clothing. Of listening to the advice of elders and doing what was expected of him. All of this gave Cain a pain as he thought of it. All Abel ever thought of was his sheep and God. He spent all of his time with those stupid sheep. He remembered how Abel began to smell like a sheep after being around them so much. He also remembered how he had to look after his brother all the time. How Adam always said, "Now Cain, you look after little Abel. After all he is not as old as you." Good grief, how he hated that, Playing nursemaid to his brother. He thought back to the times when he had shown his brother up as a stupid shepheard boy. How he had been the one who was sharp and direct in his dealings. Like a spear. Yeah, just like a spear like his name. Boy, those were the days. He had made it big

just like he told everyone he would do. He had the biggest spread around. It was really something to see and to be proud of. He didn't have to work. He left that to the common laborers. He rode out to the fields and checked with his foremen to see that the work was being done. He used his brains and with his good farms producing fabulously he used them as collateral and bought up more land. He hired more men. Now it was Cain Farms. Next it would be Cain Enterprises. He had talked to Abel about selling some of the land he used for pasture for his sheep. But that dumb brother only could think in terms of sheep.

He remembered now how he had to be shown up by his brother Abel during the big religious festival. Abel had brought a prize ewe to give as an offering to the Lord. Why, that didn't amount to half of what Cain had brought. Any one could see that the surplus he had given from his Farms was a much better offering than Abels. Anyone could bring a ewe to the Lord. But dumb Abel even had to go and make it the best one. He could have given the weakest one and no one would have been any wiser. But to top it off the Lord recognized Abels gift as being the best. How could this be? And so he went to have a talk with the Lord. But then the Lord said, "If you do well, will you not be accepted?" To him then this meant that Abels gift was better and all of his efforts to make good counted for nothing. No one knew how he had to wheel and deal to get where he was. And so to Cain it was obvious that the Lord preferred Abel to him. He did not realize that he too could have had God's favor simply by becoming more like his brother. And so as he brooded over this he looked upon his brother as the one who stood in his way to being accepted. What he did not remember was the further words of God when he said, "If you do not well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it." He was so furious with Abel and he remembered all of the problems that Abel had caused him. And so Abel had to go and that was all there was to it. He had, had it with him and his self righteous bit.

So he plotted, and in his mind he formulated a plan whereby he could get rid of his brother and no one would know the difference. He asked Abel to meet him out in one of the fields on a pretext of talking business.

When they were alone in the field, (Cain had taken great pains to be sure of this), he stabbed Abel and then buried him in a shallow grave. At last he was free and rid of this blot in his life.

But what really irked him as he thought back, was that God had known Abel was missing and came to him asking about Abel. He remembered how God had asked, "Where is Abel?" He had said, "I don't know" and then he had added he thought very smartly, "Am I my brothers keeper?" But then he also remembered very embarrassedly how God had roared at him, "What have you done?" The voice of your brothers blood is crying to me from the ground." It was only then he recalled that he really took this God bit seriously. Still, he was hurt because after all he had done, God still cared more about stupid Abel. And then God told him he would be a wanderer all his life. This really scared him because he happened to think that maybe someone would murder him. But the strangest thing of all was that God told him that He would put to death anyone who would kill Cain. Which went to show that even though he was in God's bad graces, God still cared enough about him to show him his love and concern. And so God placed a mark upon Cain and he went and dwelt in the land of Nod, which in Hebrew means wandering. And so the worlds first hippy began his ceaseless wanderings on the earth, cast out of the presence of God.

~~This story~~ We as ~~restless~~ wanderers in our own right, bear both the mark of Cain and the marks of Christ. Although we share in the same guilt and sin as Cain we are marked by the nail prints of Christ. We may sink into the ground unknown, but we are never forgotten. God loves us and cares for us. Even at our worst God loves us and will forgive. We have much more going for us than Cain did. He only had a little history as background of his life. We have the advantage of hundreds of years of sin in the world and mans envy, jealousy and greed to show us how not to live. But we as Cain before us, follow stupidly along, committing the same offenses, doing the same things wrong day after day and generation after generation. This is why God sacrificed His Son Jesus for us. Because He saw the utter futility of trying to redeem people from their sins by having them seek Him. The strangest thing about it

all is the fact that in our sin and in our following of evil ways and evil companions, we resemble so many sheep. We resemble sheep, because they follow along whoever leads them at the moment. In fact we have a prayer of confession that states, "All we like sheep have gone astray." And yet in this story of Cain and Abel, the sheep were objects of good and Abel was rewarded for bringing a prize sheep to the Lord.

So the message is still the same as John tells us, "As you heard it from the beginning: that we are to love one another; not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and cut his brothers throat; cut his brothers throat simply for this reason, that his own life was evil and his brother lived a good life." Let us reach out to our brothers in love instead of hatred. Let us search our own hearts and see that perhaps we are envious of our neighbors and that perhaps we feel they are blessed and we are not. That perhaps someone else has gotten the reward which we feel we have worked for. There is a little of Abel in each of us that shines through from time to time when we let it. But unfortunately there is a lot of Cain in each of us that prevents the Abel part from coming out of us. We must therefore be aware that we are about 99% Cain and 1% Abel and strive to reduce the percentage from Cain to Abel.

One of our old, old sayings tells us about, "Raising Cain" doesn't it? Well, let's strive to change it to raising Abel in each of our lives. God will look after us as he did with Abel and as he cared about him so that he knew that he had disappeared. And he cares about each of us. But he wants us to strive to live for Him and to follow in the footsteps of His Son. The thing that rings true and clear in this Bible story, is that whether we are murdered or murderer, God cares about us and seeks us out. He remembers each of us and comes looking for us. Will we be as Abel, giving the best of what we have to him in respect to our lives and our gifts? Or will we be as Cain, conniving, striving to get by as much as we can get away with? Living by our wits and trying to get ahead in whatever way we can? Here again we are faced with a choice and the choice is ours. Speaking of Hippies, what are we? Let us pray.

